

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Ness et al.

Confirmation No: TBA

Serial No.: TBA

Group Art Unit: TBA

Filed: December 15, 2003

Examiner: TBA

For: Subtilisin Variants

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS) UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b)

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants submit herewith references which may be material to the patentability of this application and with respect to which there may be a duty to disclose. While the references may be material under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that the references are prior art. The filing of this IDS shall not be construed as a representation that no other material references than those listed exist or that a search has been conducted.

The references are listed in Form PTO/SB/08A, which is in accordance with the requirements of M.P.E.P. 609. A copy of the references was filed in US application no. 09/824,893 filed April 2, 2001, the benefit of which is claimed under 35 USC 120. It is respectfully requested that these references be considered by the USPTO in its examination of the above-identified application and be made of record therein.

This IDS is being filed **within** three months of the filing date of a national application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or **before** the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, or **before** the mailing date of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination. Therefore, no fee is due.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 15, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elias J. Lambiris", written over a horizontal line.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

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Complete if Known

Application Number	TBA
Filing Date	December 15, 2003
First Named Inventor	Ness et al.
Art Unit	TBA
Examiner Name	TBA
Attorney Docket Number	10181.210-US

Sheet	1	of	2
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Examiner
Signature

Date Considered

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	TBA
				Filing Date	December 15, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Ness et al.
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				Examiner Name	TBA
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	10181.210-US

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner's Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
		Ness et al., Nature Biotechnology, Vol. 17, pgs. 893-896 (1999)	
		Zhao et al., Proc Natl Acad Sci. USA, Vol. 94, pgs. 7997-8000 (1997)	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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